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THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT. WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1868.

I have been spending some days in Washington, seeing and hearing. Some of my observations may interest you, so far as they indicate the political situation.

The session thus far has been chaotic. Nothing has been done, because no one has seemed to know what to do. Impeachment died ignobly, with scarcely enough friends to give it decent burial. The trouble about Impeachment was that few were sincere in it. The friends of Mr. Chase did not want Impeachment, because it would have made Mr. Wade President. The friends of Mr. Colfax opposed it because the temporary elevation of any Republican to the Presidency would almost certainly deprive him of the nomination. The friends of Grant were for it and against it-if we may cite Mr. Washburne, who was an impeacher last Summer, but changed his mind. There can be no doubt that the Impeachment attempt injured us. It gave Mr. Johnson the courage of insolence. It fell upon the party likea shower of rain, and especially when it was attended by the reaction against Republicanism in the October elections. Then, also, came the Financial question. So far as an immediate political effect is concerned, I deem Gen. Butler's financial pronunciamento as unfortunate as Mr. Douglas's Nebraska bill in 1854. No good is to be gained by it. The question is not practical, and only becomes popular when it appeals to a prejudice. The Western people are sensitive and restless about the finances, and we have Butler making just such an appeal as Jack Cade made to the men of Kent: "There shall "be in England seven half-penny loaves sold "for a penny; the three-hooped pot shall have "ten hoops; and I will make it felony to drink "small beer." It is popular enough to cancel our debts by paying a certain portion of their value, to make paper dollars gold, and to double our wealth by increasing the machinery of the Treasury Printing Bureau; and our Republican members have been appalled by this "sentiment." They are trying to get around itto sugar-coat gold payments for gold obligations. The Reconstruction measure comes once again. We have tried to make this complete; but Mr. Johnson's vindictive earnestness coupled with the cunning of Judge Black, has made it impossible. The Tenure-of-Office bill-violated in the person of Stanton-still remains reft and torn, and Stanton is as much out of our politics now as though he were dead -or an ex-President. For a gentle, easy fading of reputations, commend me to this dear old dusty town. "Where is the brilliant and "rising Gabby from the Rocky Mountain Dis-"triet ?" "Oh !- Gabby ! yes; splendid genius-"but he was beaten by Rocket, and keeps a "tavern in Montana." So long as Stanton was God of War, he was worshiped; he had organs and courtiers; but now, when his name on a lieutenant's commission would not be worth a smithareen, he is forgotten. Probably they may crowd him in when the Senate meets. But people care very little about it.

The woes of Stanton - Impeachment - the drenching storm of the October Equinox, which came down upon the poor Radicals so dreadfally-Butler's financial Jack Cade notions-are all forgotten in the Presidential han-

"U. S. Grant, b. h., aged; dam, Victory, sired by West Point.-Ridden by E.JE. Washburne. Colors, red, white

If you will allow the racing calendar text, I thus give you the favorite horse in the present handicap. It looks very much as if our betting men had it arranged that he should be formally entered at Chicago. I use "handicap" in a more expressive sense than a mere form of speech. Grant is the favorite horse in the political betting-books. Every jockey and tramping man of the Republican party shouts for him. The amount of shouting is wonderful. There is so much organized enthusiasm and disciplined spontaneousness: "Ask no ques-"tions-answer none-merely hurrah, boys." This is the Grant idea. Then we have Mr. Washburne himself. The good "father of the "House" has generally been a stern father-unrelenting and exacting-a perfect old Squire Western, and apt at any time to bring down his cane upon the back of any poor young member who came within the range of his gouty toes. Ask Roscoe Conkling for a youthful experience-say about Oregon War-Debt times! What a dear old father he is now! -a perfect, blessed, heavenly old gentleman-Irascibility mellowed into Benignity -full of dimples, and cheeriness, and good-humor, with a sort of "Bless you "my dear children," stealing over his face as he walks down the House of a morning. The young members cuddle around him as a perfect Kriss Kringle, and, for the first time in his Congress career, Mr. Colfax finds that he is not the most popular man in the House. No, no

gracious Mr. Speaker; the man who carries these

foreign missions and things in his pocket is the

trains the fast horse Ulysses-who teaches him

he shall trot, and when he may canter. And there never was a more favorable inaround his paddock and caress him. The number of " original Grant men"-of men who discovered his merits years ago-who stood by him and believed in him-and who saw in his modest, quiet face the features of a second Washington—passes comprehension. I doubt if ever a man was more "believed in." The admiration with which Captain Cuttle regarded his marine comrade Mr. Bunsby, was nothing to it. When he writes, his letters are gold. No man since Bacon ever wrote such letters. When he speaks, it is the voice of the silver-tongued. When he neither writes nor speaks, then we see something Platonic or Socratic in his silence. The ashes from his cigar, yea, and the smoke that rises from the ashes, are full of statesmanship. You hear his praises on all sides. Blair and Forney praise him, although people remember that Blair and Forney have the most unlimited admiration of success, and have praised every President since Jackson. They keep house here, and make a business of it!

I find the word "handicap" better than I fancied. Gen. Grant takes about as much interest in this race as the racer in his paddock. He is not a candidate for the Presidency by his own desire, nor can his friends make him a candidate unless it is "necessary to save" the Republican party. His trainers want to ride him whether he will or no. Hence every indiation of party weakness is received with exulta-

tion; every triumph of Democracy is another reason why Grant should run; and when the Copperheads carry New-York, the Grant-backers shout. Gen. Grant himself takes a sensible view of the situation. "I am a soldier," he is reported as saying, "and not a civilian. My life has 'not led me into politics. I am used to camps and war, and I don't know the men who control civil affairs. Then I am General. I have the confidence of the country, Republican and Democratic. If I am a candidate for the Presidency, the opposition make my life, my habits, my whole career, objects of detraction, suspicion, falsehood, and calumny. I am made a partisan chief, and not a national captain. If you must have a military man, there's Sheridan; but I sincerely trust that no crisis will arise which will compel my friends to place me in nomination." While this is, no doubt, the opinion of Gen. Grant-and an opinion very natural and proper-it is certainly not that of Mr. Washburne, and of the men who back the General. They mean to make him run by getting up in the first place an "irrepressible enthusiasm," and in the second place by working on the fears of the party and making the leaders believe that Grant is

the only man that can be elected. The

whole proceeding is very like that of Mr.

Drew or Mr. Vanderbilt, when they managed

fancy stock in Wall-st. They are trying to

bear" the market and "bull" their stock.

Take an original Grant man into the lobby of

the House, and you will find the country in

the most dreadful condition. Everything is

going to the bad. The cotton crop is short, and

there are more crimes than usual, and business

is depressed, and the Democrats have the whip-

hand of us, and the negroes are behaving

badly, and money is tight, and anarchy is

inevitable. It is his conviction, based upon

Excellent Sources of Information (this whisper-

ingly, and with a wink up Indiana-ave.), that if

Grant be ousted out of the War Office, for in-

stance, hostilities will spread all over the South,

and a conflict begin, the end of which no one

can see. Well, you ask in terror, what's to be

done? Had n't we better wind up business and

not at all! Take Grant. Invest in this stock.

'shares to be had, and enormous dividends be-

The only safe thing on the street. Only fifty

hind. Think of Paris, my boy, or a Revenue place in Walrussia.' This is what our fancy-stock politicians call The Grant Movement. I was in conversation with a distinguished Senator some days sincea man who believes in Grant as we all believe in him. He had traveled far and wide during the Summer. He had seen thousands of people and this is what was generally said: Senator -"Well, what do you think of the Presidential question?" Citizen-"I do n't know. Things look mixed. We guess we have got to take 'Grant." Senator-" Is there any positive de-'sire for Grant's nomination ?" Citizen-" None around here. We all would like somebody else-Chase, Colfax, Morton, or some states-'man-but we are afraid we can't help our-'selves." It is very much as if you were to raise the cry of "Fire" in Broadway at midday, or start running after some imaginary pickpocket with the cry of "stop thief," or to point at an ideal star in the clear and starless sky. In an hour, you could impede business. Grant is to be forced into the race as a last resort, and the Republican party is to be brought to such a condition that it must accept

men, to make a soldier a candidate? Are we to take the advice of those leaders who insisted upon indorsing Mr. Johnson long after his treason began to work; who feared the Freedmen's Bureau bill was unnecessary, and Manhood Suffrage the greased cartridge of the Sepoy, and who demand the nomination of negative military candidates? The candidate may be a great soldier; his character may have civic beauty as well as military glory; he may be 'indorsed" by Radical politicians. Any of these considerations might be pleaded in behalf of a military nomination. They are not pleaded We must have a military man as the candidate of necessity. These men find success dearer than principle, and prefer an easy campaign with an uncertain leader to a manly fight at every odds for liberty and justice. The Republican party should certainly meet this question: Should success in war be the highest recommendation to the Presidency? Our best men had hoped later years would give us the moral strength to do in this respect what no party in this country has ever yet done. With the exception of Washington, we have had no military President competent to deal liberally with affairs of State. It is customary to say this of Jackson. We cannot honor the man with the highest honor who debased the public morals by fostering corruption, and who regarded the country very much as he did his plantation in Tennessee, and the public officers to be kept as well under the whip as his his negro slaves. The education of the mere soldier unfits him for civil responsibilities. His life is spent in man of men to-day. This, is the jockey who camps and forts, on the Indian frontier, or in circumlocution offices, drowsily winding red his paces, and what gait he shall take, when tape. One of the greatest modern thinkers has shown how few of the elements of character vestment! See how the trading men crowd that contribute to greatness are needed in the successful military commander, and names Cromwell, Washington, and Bonaparte as the only three men in modern times who knew how to command an army and also how to govern a nation. The experience of men and books-the knowledge of political economy and civil law-the serenity of temper so necessary to a ruler-are almost impossible to a military man in active service. His profession is lawlessness, his discipline tyranny. His education teaches him not to make men happy, but to give them utility and force. His virtue is the bayonet, his law a cannon. He is surrounded by soldiers. With an education limited to the stern requirements of a military command, he finds the Presidency surrounded by politicians, who flatter him, and pander to the very weakness which it would be wisdom to curb. He is slow to recognize the sacredness of law. He chafes under authority and precedent. His Constitution is a general order; his Supreme Court a corporal's guard. Accustomed to absolute power, it is not in his nature to surrender it. So, when a critical Congress ruffles him, or his policy is overruled, the temper of his mind is to regard it as he would a break in his line, and order up his artillery. A President like Johnson, with military education

and military ideas, would most probably have

replied to the exasperating speeches of Sumner

NEW-YORK, MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1868.

sword cannot always resist the temptation to rise still higher on the shields of his soldiers. And yet we love these men of blood with that lusty, ravenous, unreasoning love that belongs to our baser nature. Because our politics are controlled by men of baser nature, our party leaders have never dared to oppose the principle that success in war is the highest recommendation for the Presidency. Because the halting, cowardly, and time-serving policy of the Republican party led to its defeat at the recent elections, they must enter a new campaign with a soldier candidate. The party does not want a soldier; if it had carried Pennsylthis is the hour of its despair, and only a soldier can save it. This argument-resting only upon necessity-is urged in spite of reason, experience, and common sense, not only by Democrats but by Republicans. There is not a politician here of any party with skill enough to

Hill. Freedom is almost incompatible with a

military spirit. A warrior who rises by his

vania, it would have done without him. But do the rule of three who does not feel that military service is the last qualification for the Presidency. And yet the leaders of all parties, Republican as well as Democratic, are striving to induce some available Major-General Commanding to accept their suffrages. The friends of Chase, Colfax and the rest,

argue earnestly that the nomination of a mere soldier, whose principles are negative and uncertain, and who has no claim but successful military service, ends the mission of the Republican party as the party of Progress and Justice. There was, perhaps, a reason, and that not the most creditable, why a new party, forming its ranks and aiming to rally the young men, should nominate Col. Fremont in 1856. It was necessary to reach the imagination of the young. A man was named who had climbed the Rocky Mountains and planted the American flag in midsummer snow. It served its purpose, and the young men shouted, and cheered, and sung themselves into Republicanism. When the party was strong enough to win, it selected a statesman. It was strong enough to reflect him-in the agony of the war-and to defeat the most popular soldier of the day. If it were wise to sell out to Lord Stanley or Napoleon ? "No, no; give a civilian the direction of the war, why is it necessary to give a warrior the direction of peace? If the party is not strong enough to elect a statesman, let it avoid the errors which have shorn it of its strength. They argue that to nominate any man, soldier or citizen, who is not a conspicuous représentative of Republican principles, is to admit that the party is no longer worthy to defend those principles, but really to abandon the cause which has given it so much glory, power, and usefulness. -The South! the South! After all, the

Presidency is the mere toying of children compared with the necessities of this unhappy region. Do you remember Dante entering Hell and seeing the souls of millions whirled around in tyrannous gust, and with restless fury, and his visit to the troubled waters of the Stygian lake, underneath which were buried the multitude, whose sighs were only known by the bubbles that heaved along the surface? Such a doom seems to have fallen upon the South. By the cowardice and tardiness of the Republican party, and the treachery of the President, we have reduced that region to a wretched condition. The President has a simple policy. It means ANARCHY. If he can find Generals enough to do his bidding, he will throw the South into chaos rather than see it come back into the Union under Republican auspices. So long as Tammany-Hall Hancock can drive Flanders out of the Governor's chair, and remand the negro to the Rebel courts-so long as he can defeat any Constitution or select any Congressmen he pleases, Reconstruction is imperfect. What the Southerners, Black and White, understand is FORCE. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Butler may write the most radical speeches-we may send as many political missionaries as the Catholic Church has in her service; so long as the Rebel and the negro see the power to strike down the loyal generals, to send Sheridan to the Indian country, and take the stars from Sickles, they cannot respect Congress. After the Extra Session, when Sheridan was removed, we were assured that, so soon as Congress reassembled, the law would be so amended that Grant could have absolute advisory and directory power. Yet Congress has met, and Grant is still a cipher, the hand that countersigns Johnson's orders; and, while Radical members are eating turkey and plum pudding in the most cheerful and domestic manner, the President whirls Pope from his seat. That one act does more to strengthen the President in the South than a hundred Reconstruction laws to weaken him. And yet we have Republicans, conspicuous among them Mr. Raymond (I call him Republican for the sake of argument), who say: "For Heaven's sake, friends, do n't worry the President; do n't quarrel with him;

you are as bad as he is; do n't exasperate him; he cannot be controlled, and you can. " Let us smile upon him benignantly, and have peace." There is something sweet and beautiful in the New-Testament virtue of these saintly men-something edifying in this turning the smitten cheek to the smiter-this kissing the hand that gives the blow. The only instance like it-if you will allow me to make another familiar illustration-is that of the caned and beaten Pecksniff, who slinks away, with battered head, saying: "If you should "wish to have anything inscribed upon your " silent tomb, Sir, let it be that I-ah, remorseful Sir, that I, the humble individual who "has now the honor of reproaching you-forgave you; that I forgave you when my injuries were fresh, and when my bosom was newly wrung. It may be bitterness to you to hear it now, Sir, but you will live to seek 'a consolation in it." It is so much more beautiful to have a trusting nature than a doubting one; and, read by the Pecksniffian philosophy, Congress to-day occupies a most beautiful and trusting position.

In addition to this trouble, we have another even more perplexing. The call of the National Republican Committee says:

"Each State in the United States is authorized to be rep resented in said Convention by the number of delegates equal to twice the number of Senators and Representatives to which each State is entitled in the National Con-

"We invite the cooperation of all friends of the speedy reorganization of those States whose governments were destroyed by the Rebellion, and their perman eat restoration to their proper practical relations with the United States in accordance with the true principles of

-It is held-and I am merely repeating the arguments made by at least one leading Republican-that this call means only those States and Stevens by a couple of batteries on Capitol | which at the time of the meeting of the Con-

vention will be held to be in "proper practical "relations" with the Government. It is argued that the Convention cannot admit any delegates but from these States, that in the event of any doubt of the nomination of Grant, the States will be kept out of Congress until after the nomination, when they will be allowed the privilege of voting for a candidate they did not help to nominate. What is this leading to? I do not write as ar alarmist, but to present the actual political situation. It means that an effort is being made to organize a new party in opposition to the regular Republican candidate. The elements composing that party may be classified as follows:

I. The dissatisfied Republicans in the South. II. Those Republicans in the West and North who believe with Gen. Butler that the bonds should be paid in currency.

III. Those Republicans who believe the National Banking System to be wrong.

The argument of one who stands high in this movement may be thus paraphrased: "Take 'away Negro Suffrage and I am a Democrat. "I find what may be called an aristocratic, bond-holding class, which will not tax bonds 'nor help to meet taxation. I find them determined to pay gold where we only give greenbacks. I find them making discriminating Internal Revenue laws and tariffs, when I am a free-trader. I see in Gen. Grant a bond-holding candidate, supported by Mr. McCulloch, and Jay Cooke, and Mr. A. T. Stewart in New York, and the whole Wall-street interest. The National banks "cannot nominate Mr. Chase, and they are putting their fingers on Grant. They own him, and his success would be the triumph of prin-"ciples to which I am opposed." "Then," I suggested, "you mean to oppose the Republican party, whoever it may nominate, and your movement is secession, like the Birney movement of 1844, or the Van Buren movement of "1848." "I don't put it in that view altogether," was the reply. "I am a Republican on the Suffrage question, and that holds me in the party. We can make the elements of a party against Grant, simply because Grant is the only candidate who does not wholly possess the confidence of the party on the Suffrage questionjust now the femoral artery of the party-lifeif you permit the phrase. I would oppose Chase or Colfax, or anybody else upon financial issues; but they are so Radical-Chase especially-that those who believe with me on the other matters would postpone them until a new election. It would also be so with Sheridan-if you must have stars-with Thomas, perhaps -with Thomas certainly, if he had not "been born in a Slave State." I give you as far as I can remember the words of the conversation. It is for you to place your own value upon them. It would be madness not to see that such a movement is contemplated here, and that, in the event of the nomination of Gen. Grant on algold-paying, currency-contracting, protective platform-which platform will surely be adopted-we shall have, within thirty days, such a ticket, perhaps, as Benjamin F. Butler for President, and Thomas J. Durant for Vice-President. I name these men on my own responsibility, and simply by way of illus tration. I do not think it would be strong. It would not get any support from the friends of Chase or Colfax. This I know. The only question is whether a Birney or Van Buren movement now would not throw the election into the House, or lead to even worse results. Plainly, Reconstruction is only half performed. And this our friends should discuss in the most mest and careful manner.

> ever such a good-tempered, chirping, warbling, real canary bird of a Speaker? It does one's heart good to look at him; and, if he were to take wings and fly up among the trees and earol all day, it wouldn't surprise me. Well: the popularity of that man-considering he does not drink anything, and goes to church-is astonishing. Some of his friends say he is no longer in the canvass for the Presidency, but that he will be presented by the West for the Vice-Presidency. Certainly, the nomination of Mr. Colfax would strengthen even the Grant ticket, and, but for his sectional position, he would be nominated by acclamation. As it is, unless you settle some of your quarrels in New-York or Pennsylvania, and agree upon a candidate, Mr. Colfax may be nominated anyhow. It would be quite as proper to nominate Grant and Colfax from Illinois and Indiana as it was to nominate Lincoln and Johnson from the Western States of Illinois and Tennessee.

ANOTHER STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION-SEVERAL LIVES LOST.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 4.—The stern-wheel steame Harry Dean, bound from Marietta to Cincinnati, exploded her boilers at 104 o'clock this morning, two miles below Gallipolis, caught fire and burned to the water's edge. ollowing casualties are reported: Capt. Sayer ider of the Harry Dean, slightly injured: Capt commander of the Harry Dean, slightly injured; Capt. Booth and son, slightly injured; Capt. Burch, seriously injured; First Engineer Crane, slightly injured; John Haines, fireman, fatally injured; Capt. Boggs, of Ashland, Ky., killed and his body lost; Capt. Norton, of Wheeling, killed and his body lost; one of the cabin boys fatally injured; Mr. Munson, barkeeper, seriously injured; L. T. Ryan, of Washington County, Onio, seriously injured; Harry Bayes, slightly injured; the cook and steward are missing. Five persons in all, are supposed to be killed.

be killed.

The steamer Edinburgh took off the survivors and brought them to Gallipolis. The Dean had a heavy cargo on board, which is a total loss. Her books and papers are also lost.

SECOND DISPATCH.

Further particulars of the explosion of the Henry Dean, near Gallipolis, give the following additional casualties: J. W. Rider, killed; Mr. Buchanas, deck hand, and two others, names unknown, burned to death; cabin boy, name unknown, fatally injured; Mr. Burns of Spartansburg, badly burned; Engineer Chamberlain, slightly brussed; J. J. Brown, formerly of the 3th Ohio Regiment, arm broken and otherwise injured. A number are injured who are not reported. Several persons are missing, and are supposed to be lost. The boat was heavily laden with 406 barrels of oil, salt, and potatoes, all of which is a total loss.

STOCK ADMITTED TO CANADA DUTY FREE-FALL OF A BUILDING.

OTTAWA, Jan. 4.—The Official Gazette contains a notice that horses, cattle, sheep, and other animals, poultry and fancy birds, imported for the purpose of improving stock, whether by agricultural societies or private individuals, will be admitted duty free.

The discount on American invoices is 25 per cent.

MONTREAL Jan. 4.—The second flour of a building occupied by 8. It. May & Co., dealers in glass and oil, gave way last night, involving serious loss. The statement of the City Auditor shows that the annual expenditure is \$150,000 more than the revenue.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE IN VERMONT, St. Albans, Vt., Jan. 4.—John Bishop, of this town, shot his wife and himself, about noon to day. Bishop is dead, and but little hopes are entertained of his wife's recovery. The cause was jealousy.

SUSPENSION IN CINCINNATI. CINCINNATI, Jan. 4.—Levitt & Bevis, dry goods merchants on Fourth-st., suspended to-day. Their habilities are not known.

DESTRUCTION OF A SUGAR REFINERY.
PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 4.—The large sugar refinery of Taylor, Gillespie & Co., was much injured by fire this evening. The loss has not been estimated.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 5.—The Steamer Alli-ance, from Charleston, reports having encountered hur-ricane on the 30th of December, which came ...om all points of the compass. The steamer hove to 26 nours of Hog Island.

WASHINGTON.

RETURN OF CONGRESSMEN-WHAT THEIR CON-STITUENTS THINK UPON FINANCES, NA-TIONAL DEBT, TAXATION AND REVENUE-SENATOR HOWARD'S REPORT ON THE PRES-TUENT'S MESSAGE SUSPENDING SECRETARY STANTON-THE WHISKY RING.

TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. It is expected that Congress will at once get to

work earnestly and patriotically upon the measures already proposed, and others contemplated, to relieve the country from the commercial and financial disorders which prevail. Members of Congress just returned from holiday visits to their homes, report that they have been urged by their constituents to use their best efforts to immediately perfect the necessary legislation on questions of finance and taxation, to the end that these may be speedily and wisely settled, not only in obedience to the emergency of the times, but so that these grave matters may be determined before the Presidential election, and thus keep them as free as possible from party politics. These members represent that recently some modification in public sentiment has taken place on the proposition to increase the paper currency, or to contract the same, the first (increase of currency) being urged less, and the latter (contraction) scarcely at all; that the proposition to tax Government bonds has grown in favor, and that the mode and time of paying these bonds is engaging the earnest consideration of the people: that there is a well-defined division of opinion on this subject, and, except in cases where the law, in express language, directs payment in coin, it is difficult to determine whether there is or is not a majority in favor of redeeming these obligations in currency. They also represent that there is not such earnest and active opposition to National banks as was manifested at the commencement of the November session of Congress, But above all other questions upon which the people express solicitude, that of taxation is probably foremost. The reduction of the aggregate sum collected is advised, and the popular idea seems to be that it should be fixed, as an experiment, for the present at least, at about three hundred millions of dollars. It is also advised that the number of taxable articles be greatly reduced; that the cotton tax should be at once repealed; that the income tax is odious and nquisitorial, and should be abolished; that the tax on distilled spirits should be greatly reduced-some urging twenty, others fifty cents per gallon. Upon the subject of the tax on whisky, there are memorials here to be presented this week in the House, which agree with the views above presented; and one of these memorials (from the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce) recommends the abolishment of bonded warehouses, and the collection of the tax at the distilleries, and to fix the tax at fifty cents per

Senator Howard stated to a gentleman this evening that he had completed his report on the President's Message suspending Stanton, andworld submit it! to the Military Committee at their meeting to-morrow. He has conferred with no one in preparing the report, and confines himself principally to the constitutional questions involved and the charges preferred against the Secretary by the President. Whether the members of the Military Committee will take the same view of the questions involved remains to be een. Secretary Stanton was called upon to know whether he desired to make any reply to the impliations contained in the President's Message, but he leclined to make any suggestions to the Committee or to Congress in regard to the matter. It will unloubtedly give rise to a good deal of debate when it s reported to the Senate, as it involves the constituonality of the Tenure-of-Office bill. A large number of Senators at the time of its passage doubted not only the propriety, but the constitutionality of such legislation.

Senator Sherman intends to call up to-morrow the House bill for the repeal of the cotton tax, in the hope of securing speedy action on that measure Those opposed to its repeal are in hopes of securing s by fixing the reduction at one and a half cents per pound. They will probably fail in this, as there seems to be a majority in favor of the bill as it passed the House. If the discussion on this bill is to be protracted, Senator Morton will call up the House bill to stop contraction of the currency. The Senators from the North-West regard this as a more important matter than the Cotton bill, as they are strongly urged by their constituents to take the power from the Secretary to interfere any further with the currency question.

The sub-committee of Ways and Means have been xamining for the last four days a number of deectives who are understood to be familiar with an extensive organization known as the Whisky Ring. It appears from the evidence elicited thus far that this organization has!its headquarters at New-York City, and extends its operations to all the principal cities in the West and East and South. Since they have been in operation, about one year, they claim to have made \$50,000,000, and are still pursuing their business of defrauding the Government out of the tax on whisky. This organization have thus far defied the Government and make their boasts that they will do it in the future. The Committee are fully satisfied that unless this corrupt organization is broken up it is useless for Congress to pass laws for the collection of the revenue, on this or any other article, when the incentive is so great to steal and plunder the Government. It is said there are parties occupying high positions in the Government who are interested in this organization. The Committee intend to probe this matter to the bottom, in the hope of bringing out all the facts, and showing up the parties engaged in this nefarious transaction. The Committee which have been in session during recess, is being aided in this work by many large distillers throughout the country, who have been compelled to shut up their places of business on account of the immense frauds.

A large meeting of citizens of the cities of Washngton and Georgetown and the District was held on Friday evening, for the purpose of considering the proposed plans of government for the District of Columbia. A resolution declaring that the meeting was in favor of consolidating the municipalities of Washington and Georgetown and the county under one government, was unanimously adopted. A discussion then ensued as to the best form of government to be recommended to Congress. So must interest was manifested in the subject, that it was considered best to hold another meeting before adopting any certain plan. A committee was appointed to consider and report a bill or bills, to be submitted at the next meeting for its consideration and action.

Gen. Sheridan and Rear-Admiral Bailey arrived in the city last evening.

Secretary Seward gave his third state dinner last vening, at which a portion of the Foreign Diplo-

matic Corps were present. Within the past week there have been five soldiers

Within the past week there have been five soldiers sentenced by court-martial in this city for desertion. In each case the sentence was that the accused be indelibly branded on the left hip with the letter D., one and a half inches long, and 15 days after the branding process, their heads to be shaved, and then each party to be drummed out of the service. In one of these cases the accused left his regiment in Alabama, and came here to visit his family. His sentence was to be executed yesterday, but upon petition of his wife the President suspended the execution of sentence until the case can be reviewed.

A financial difficulty has existed for some time past between the Register and Mayor of Washington with regard to payments for the support of the public schools. The Register, a Radical Republican, refused to countersign the check for the payment of salaries of teachers in the white schools until checks were drawn by the Mayor (Conservative) for the payment of the full amount of the requisitions of the trustees of the public schools, making the sum of \$42,559, all excepting \$6,000 being on account of arrearage to the colored schools. This afternoon gentlemen irrespective of party brought about an accommodation. The Register

drew three checks, namely: \$6,000 on account of colored schools, proportion for the present year: \$15,000 on account of arrearages to colored schools, and a check for \$21,559, the balance of arrearages for colored schools, and \$12,000 for salaries of teachers of white schools. The Mayor signed the last-named check first, and the others on colored accounts afterward. The Mayor, it is said, thus gained his point with the Treasurer.

Treasurer.

George S. Parker of Boston has been appointed Chief of the Division of Abandoned Property in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, vice Samuel H. Kauffman, resigned. Mr. Parker has been assistant to Mr. Kauffman for some years past in that

ant to Mr. Kauffman for some years past in that office.

The receptions of Speaker Colfax will commence on Friday evening, Jan. 17, and continue during the session every Friday evening thereafter.

Senator Morton of Indana has complied with the request of many prominent Republicans, to write out for publication, as a campaign document, his speech recently delivered before the Soldiers' and Sailors' League.

But few of the Congressmen who went home to spend the holidays have as yet returned to Washington. For this reason it is not certain there will be a quorum to-morrow.

The Conservative Army and Navy Union has issued an address to the honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the late war for the Union, warning them against the alleged designs of the opposite parties, who have issued calls throughout the States, and from this city, for a Soldiers' and Sailors' Convention for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue, in response to the resolution of the House of Representatives, directing him to report the reasons why the Supervisors of the school known as the Gettysburg Asylum of Invalid Soldiers have been exempted from the payment of the special tax duty on a lottery called by them a gift enterprise, 'He says the

burg Asylum of Invalid Soldiers have been exempted from the payment of the special tax duty on a lottery called by them a gift enterprise. He says the laws provides that the application and proof should be made to the collector of the district, whose facilities for a thorough examination of the merits of each application are far greater than those of the Commissioner. If the proof is satisfactory to the Collector he approves the application in writing, and forwards it to the Commissioner. This recommendation is what is chiefly relied on, and when it is received the desired permit is issued, unless torn is what is chiefly relied on, and when it is received the desired permit is issued, unless some good reason for withholding it is known to exist. On the 20th day of May, 1867, a petition was received by the Commissioner, in which the petitioner asked to be exempted from the payment of the Internal Revenue tax. Accompanying the petition, was the affidavit of a person claiming to be the Secretary of the Corporation. They were sent to the Commissioner by John H. Diehl, Collector of the Second District of Pennsylvania. At the same time he stated that there was a difference of op nion respecting the constitutionality of the act; Lut as no other objection was suggested by the Collector, and none whatever by any other party, the permit was granted, free from taxation.

An item was published last week referring to domestic industry among the Indians. It now appears that, although the Indian Department has recommended the plan, the Secretary of the Interior declines to adopt and cooperate in the plan. The parties who have thus been devoted to this object will take no further active measures until the entire plan has been submitted to Congress.

clines to adopt and cooperate in the plan. The parties who have thus been devoted to this object will take no further active measures until the entire plan has been submitted to Congress.

During the week ending to-day there has been received at the Treasury Department from the Printing Division, \$434,000 in fractional currency. The amount shipped for the same period was: To the United States Depository at Chicago, \$02,000, and to the National Banks and others, \$132,571. The amount of securities held by the Treasurer of the United States in trust for National Banks reported, to-day were, for circulating notes, \$340,942,750; for deposits of public money, \$37,817,950; Total, \$378,760,700.

The amount of National Banks urrency issued during the week was \$74,770, making the total amount issued up to date, \$305,560,931. From this is to be deducted the currency returned, including worn-out notes, amounting to \$5,726,355, leaving in actual circulation at this date, \$299,833,976. The amount of fractional currency redeemed and destroyed during the week was \$301,400. The receipts of Internal Revenue for the past week were \$6,251,172, and for the fiscal year, commencing on the 1st of July, to date, \$104,512,521.

The warrants issued by the Treasury Department during the month of December to meet the require-

the fiscal year, commencing on the 1st of July, to date, \$104,512,521.

The warrants issued by the Treasury Department during the month of December to meet the requirements of the Government amounted in round numbers, to the following sums: Civil, miscellaneous and toreign intercourse, \$4,761,000; interest on the public debt, \$8,300,000; war, \$12,955,600; navy, \$3,620,000; interior, pensions, and Indians, \$865,000; total, \$50,621,000. The above amount does not include the sum issued in payment of the public debt.

The Director of the Bureau of Statistics reports that by the royal decree of Nov. 27 the imperial duty on foreign cereals in Portugal is temporarily done away with up to the 30th of June, 1868; and until that date all vessels importing said cereals are exempted from tunnage dues proportional to the amount of cereals they import. This is in consequence of a shortness in the wheat crop.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE NEW ORLEANS

From Washington Dispatch to the Cincinnati Gazette.

It will be made to appear (in Senator Howterpolated words in the dispatch of Gen. Baird to Secretary Stanton, for the purpose of making the point that the latter was responsible for the New-Orleans riot. This dispatch, as sent to the Senate by the President, reads as follows: ard's forthcoming report) that the President actually in-

the latter was responsible for the New-Orleans riot. This dispatch, as sent to the Senate by the President, reads as follows:

"How. Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War: A Convention has been called, with the sanction of Gov. Welles, to meet here on Monday. The Lieut. Governor and city authorities think it unlawful, and propose to break it up by arresting the delegates. I have given no orders on the subject, but have warned the parties I could not constituent on an one by telegraph."

Upon this the President remarks: The 28th of August was on Saturday; next morning, the 29th, this dispatch was received by Mr. Stanton, at his residence in this city, and he took no action upon it, and neither sent instructions to Gen. Baird himself, nor presented it to me for such instructiontions. On the next Monday the riot occurred. I never saw this dispatch from Gen. Baird until some ten days or two weeks after the riot, when upon my calling for all the dispatches with a view to their publication, Mr. Stanton sent it to me. These facts all appear in the testimony of Mr. Stanton before the Judiciary Committee in the impeachment investigation. On the 30th, the day of the riot, and after it was suppressed, Gen. Baird wrote to Mr. Stanton a long letter, from which I make the following extracts:

"Fix I have the honor to inform you that a very serious riot occurred here to-day. I had not been applied to by the Convention for protection, but the Lieut. Governor and Mayor had freely committee to day. I had not been applied to by the Convention for protection, but the Lieut. Governor and Mayor had freely consulted with me, and I was as of ally conviced that it was so strongly the interest of the city authorities to preserve peace in order to prevent military interference that I did not regard an outbreak as a thing to be apprehended. The Lieut. Governor assured me that even if a writ of arrest was issued by the Convention for protection, but the lieut. Governor convention with the way server to the provide the provide the provide the pro

GEN. GRANT'S LETTER TO MR. STEWART.

From The Chicago Tribane, Jan. 3.

A statement, originating in a Connecticut the effect that Mr. A. T. Stewart of New-York is in re-

the effect that Mr. A. T. Stewart of New-York is in receipt of a long private letter from Gen. Grant, in regard to the recent nomination by the late Cooper Institute mass meeting. "He accepts the resolutions," says The New-Haven Register, "authorizing the Committee to push forward his claims for the Presidency." It is added that the letter will soon be published.

We happen to know that the letter addressed by Gen. Grant to Mr. Stewart, referred to by the New-Haven paper, contained no allusions to the Presidency or to the Cooper Institute meeting, or to politics. As Gen. Grant does not expect to be elected President of New-York City, it would be idle for him to accept a nomination for that office. His letter to Mr. Stewart was wholly personal to that gentleman, and, as the public have no interest in it, we presume Mr. Stewart will not furnish a copy of it to the Press.

CONSERVATIVE MEETINGS IN GEORGIA-BODY OF A MURDERED MAN FOUND.

Augusta, Ga., Jan. 4.—Conservative meetings AUGUSTA, Ga., Jan. 4.—Conservative meetings are being held in various portions of the State, approving the proceedings of the Macon Convention, and for the purpose of forming clubs preparatory to the approaching election. A meeting of citizens of this county was held this evening, which approved the proceedings of the Macon Convention. Resolutions were passed thanking the President for removing Gen. Pope, and expressing confidence in Gen. Meade and his impartial administration of the Reconstruction acts.

The body of an unknown white man was found in a creek near this city to-day, in a decomposed state. He was murdered and thrown into the creek.

A LEAGUE OF GERMAN SINGING SOCIETIES.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 5.—At the last great Sangerfest in this city, a general desire was expressed to establish a league of all the German singing societies in the Northern and Eastern States and Canada. Accordingly, to-day, delegates meet here from Philadelphia, New-York and Baltimord, to form a Constitution. A committee of three, one from each city named above, was appointed to harmonize the different drafts of the Constitution offered. Delegates will meet on Monday accept the Constitution.